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ASSOCIATION OF
AMERICAN RAILROADS
OFFICE OF INFORMATION AND PUBLIC AFFAIRS
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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

WASHINGTON, September 17, 1981 -- Freight traffic on major U.S. railroads during the week ended September 12 totaled an estimated 16.7 billion ton-miles, 6.9 percent below the corresponding week a year ago, the Association of American Railroads reported today. The 1981 week included the Labor Day holiday -- the 1980 week did not.

Cumulative volume for the first 37 weeks of 1981 was an estimated 655.8 billion ton-miles, 1.4 percent higher than the comparable period of last year.

Carloadings in the week ended September 12 totaled 384,645 cars, 14.9 percent below 1980, and 14.8 percent lower than the preceding non-holiday week of this year. Compared with last year, loadings were down 11.4 percent in the East, 18.5 percent in the South, and 15.1 percent in the West.

Compared with the corresponding week of 1980, 19 of the 21 commodity groups were down.

Twenty of the 21 groups were down from the preceding non-holiday week of this year.

Piggyback

The AAR also reported that piggyback freight traffic on major railroads during the week ended September 5 totaled 35,279 cars, up 26.2 percent from the corresponding week of 1980, and 64,826 trailers and/or containers, up 27.9 percent from last year. The 1980 week included the Labor Day holiday.

The cumulative volume of TOFC/COFC traffic for the first 36 weeks of the year was 1,170,661 cars, 2.0 percent higher than last year, and 2,117,101 trailers and/or containers, 1.3 percent higher than last year.

(more)

Following are carloadings of major railroads, by commodity groups, for the week ended 9/12/81:

	Loadings in Week ended September 12, 1981		Change from Corresponding Week 1980			Change from Preceding Week	
	Cars		Cars	Percent		Cars	Percent
Grain	21,508	D	11,801	35.4	D	7,587	26.1
Other farm products	2,850	D	1,077	27.4	I	148	5.5
Metallic ores	34,633	I	7,727	28.7	D	3,428	9.0
Coal	118,753	D	1,372	1.1	D	16,452	12.2
Crushed stone, gravel and sand	10,844	D	4,430	29.0	D	1,566	12.6
Nonmetallic minerals	12,457	D	4,718	27.5	D	242	1.9
Grain mill products	12,087	D	5,927	32.9	D	1,895	13.6
Food and kindred products	13,363	D	5,426	28.9	D	2,533	15.9
Primary forest products	15,136	D	5,081	25.1	D	2,164	12.5
Lumber and wood products except furniture	5,230	D	3,631	41.0	D	1,730	24.9
Pulp, paper and allied products	16,336	D	4,244	20.6	D	3,530	17.8
Chemicals and allied products	21,819	D	4,802	18.0	D	4,588	17.4
Petroleum products	4,492	D	1,614	26.4	D	803	15.2
Stone, clay and glass products	11,767	D	5,100	30.2	D	1,800	13.3
Coke	6,097	I	2,410	65.4	D	653	9.7
Metals and products	12,887	D	1,240	8.8	D	3,347	20.6
Motor vehicles and equipment	11,298	D	4,865	30.1	D	1,506	11.8
Waste and scrap materials	9,792	D	2,491	20.3	D	2,013	17.1
Forwarder and shipper association traffic	7,867	D	2,775	26.1	D	2,155	21.5
All other carloads	35,263	D	6,864	16.3	D	9,202	20.7
LCL traffic	166	D	82	33.1	D	53	24.2
Total Cars Loaded	384,645	D	67,403	14.9	D	67,099	14.8
Corresponding week of 1980	452,048						

	1981	1980	% Change	
Total Cars Loaded (37 weeks)	15,454,464	16,040,351	D	3.7
Estimated revenue ton-miles (in billions):				
36 Weeks cumulative	639.1	629.0	I	1.6
Week ended September 12	16.7	18.0	D	6.9
37 Weeks cumulative	655.8	647.0	I	1.4

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